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is most stiff and rigid. And farther, he divides the various portions of the said leaves into longitudinal slips, with a knife or knives, or other fit cutting-tool or tools, used either singly or set in a frame, so as to afford an equal gage for the said longitudinal slips as to the breadth thereof; and he afterwards sorts and selects the said longitudinal slips, by separating a part from each other of such slips as are best adapted to the several particular uses in manufacturing as aforesaid. And in some cases he washes the said leaves previous to cutting the same (as before mentioned) with soap and water, and exposes them, after rinsing them, in a moist state to the fumes of burning sulphur in a close chamber or place. And where it may be desirable to dye the said leaves of any particular colour, he performs the same by the usual process upon them, either in their first state, or in any of the subsequent states or stages of manufacture. And farther, that among the different species of the said tribe of plants, the genus *areca* and *corypha* are the most generally useful, and to be preferred; and that the middle portion of the leaf of the plants so cut into proportions as aforesaid, is a better article than that which is produced or afforded by the extremities so cut off. And, lastly, the said slips are and may be usefully employed in manufacturing of hats and bonnets, chair bottoms and baskets, and for other articles and purposes, by plating, weaving, or intertwining the same with or without the addition or intermixture of silk, wool, cotton, or other fibrous materials, in various well known manners. And the peculiar strength and flexibility of the said vegetables so prepared

do render them capable of being employed in plating or intertextures, which could not be attempted or made with the articles or materials heretofore in use for those purposes.

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*On Irrigation; by Mr. Thomas Purdy, of Castle Acre, in the County of Norfolk. (From the Communications to the Board of Agriculture.)*

As I am now watering at least twenty acres, in a most complete manner, by forming them into beds of from ten to twelve yards breadth, and introducing the water upon the crowns of the beds, to be carried off by parallel drains, I desire to state, that the meadows I am irrigating are situated in a neighbourhood which consists almost entirely of arable land, let generally for not more than from ten to eighteen shillings *per acre per annum*.

That meadow and pasture land do not bear a greater proportion than of one acre to fifty of arable land, and that notwithstanding this great want of feeding land, yet the meadows which I am irrigating were not in their old previous state, worth more than seven shillings *per acre* to let, being two thirds of it boggy, and the remainder full of sedges, and all sorts of aquatic rubbish.

In the present state, and with the prospect of future advantages to be gained by this irrigation, a neighbouring farmer has already offered me to hire the whole of these meadows for any length of time, and to give me for such hire, five guineas *per acre per annum*, not doubting but they will produce in the first crop of hay next summer, at least two tons and a half *per acre*.

The method I have taken to irrigate the above meadows is, by taking water out of its natural course, at the distance of at least thirteen chains above my first meadow, by a ditch, upon the average twenty feet wide, seven feet perpendicularly deep, and six feet wide at the bottom. The water thus introduced, divides itself into two feeders, one of which conveys water to my first meadow, and then runs off to water my last meadow, and the other to the other intermediate meadows. All the meadows are formed into beds, as I have stated above, which are raised so as to have a fall on each side from two to three feet, and so well formed, as to be watered in every part. The work is all done by labourers with spades, and will cost altogether about 30*l.* per acre. This expense, however, I think by no means considerable, when I take into consideration the circumstances of value above stated, and when I consider, what perhaps may not occur in those countries where irrigation is more practised, viz. that the turnip crop, as food in winter, is becoming more expensive and (what is of great consequence) more precarious; to supply which deficiency, I expect the hay of these water meadows to be such a resource as is almost inestimable.

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*On a New Variety of Pear; by Thomas Andrew Knight, Esq. F.R.S. &c. &c.*

**H**AD the Pear been recently introduced into England from a climate similar to that of the South of France, in which it had been found to ripen in the months of August and September, and to become fit for the dessert in the four succeeding

months, it might have been inferred, with little apparent danger of error, that the same fruit would ripen here in October, and be fit for our tables during winter; provided its blossoms proved sufficiently hardy to set in our climate. But had many varieties of this fruit been proved by subsequent experience to be capable of acquiring maturity before the conclusion of our summer, and in the early part of the autumn, without the aid of a wall, scarcely any doubts could have been entertained of the facility of obtaining numerous varieties, which would ripen well on standard trees, to supply our tables during winter: for it would be very extraordinary if the whole of our summer, and of our long, and generally warm autumn, would not effect that, which a part of our summer alone had been proved to be capable of effecting; nevertheless, though varieties of the pear abound, which bear and ripen well in the early part of the autumn, we possess scarcely any good winter pears which do not require an East or West wall in the warmer parts of England, and a South wall in the colder parts. This can arise only from the want of varieties, and I venture most confidently to predict, that (if proper experiments be made to form such varieties) winter pears, of equal merit with those which now grow on our best walls, will be obtained in the utmost abundance from standard trees; and that such pears may be sold, with sufficient profit to the grower, on as low terms as apples are now sold during winter: for I have had several opportunities of observing that the fruit of seedling pear-trees generally bears a considerable resemblance to that of their parent trees, and the experiments I have made on other species of fruits, induce me to believe, that a good copy of almost any varieties may